

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 271503Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1881

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CUNHAL ULTIMATUM TO SOCIALISTS; PPD ATTACKS COMMUNISTS

1. SPEAKING BEFORE CROWD GATHERED TO CELEBRATE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) ORGAN "AVANTE", PCP SECRETARY GENERAL ALVARO CUNHAL ISSUED ULTIMATUM TO SOCIALIST PART (PS) TO CLEARLY DEFINE ITS POLITICAL POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE PCP. CUNHAL STATED THAT EITHER PS BECOMES PROGRESSIVE PARTY ALIGNED WITH PCP, OR WILL BECOME REACTIONARY PARTY OPPOSED TO PCP.

2. IN SEPARATE, BUT RELATED, DEVELOPMENT, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) IN OPORTO ISSUED STATEMENT THAT IT NOT "ANTI-COMMUNIST-BUT "NON-COMMUNIST" AND ANTI-TOTALITARIAN, AND THAT PERHAPS PCP
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IS "SENSITIVE TO ANTI-TOTALITARIANISM". CITING A 1954 STATEMENT

IN WHICH CUNHAL SAID HE WAS "MARXIST-LENINIST-STALINIST",
AND PCP APPROVAL (AT CUNHAL'S INSISTENCE) OF SOVIET INVASION OF
CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968, PPD STATEMENT ENDED WITH DECLARATION THAT
IT DID NOT RECOGNIZE ALVARO CUNHAL "MORAL AUTHORITY."

3. COMMENT: PPD BLAST HITS PCP IN ITS MOST VULNERABLE AREA.
ALTHOUGH POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE LONG KNOWN ABOUT CUNHAL'S
STALINIST PAST AND HIS APPROVAL OF THE 1968 SOVIET INVASION OF
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THEY DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM USING THE
INFORMATION UNTIL THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE PPD ATTACK RECEIVED
UNUSUALLY GOOD COVERAGE IN A PRESS THAT HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO PRINT
ANYTHING NEGATIVE ABOUT THE PCP.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE PHOTOCOPY OF THAT PART
OF NOVEMBER 9, 1968 ISSUE OF PRAVDA IN WHICH CUNHAL APPLAUDS
CZECH INVASION, AS WELL AS ENGLISH TRANSLATION.
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To: STATE
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